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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

REASON: Reciprocity

1. The assurance of reliable, rapid and secure channels of communications between the Department of State, CIA and their overseas posts abroad is essential to the United States security position of worldwide leadership today in order that it may obtain promptly the vital intelligence upon which the proper conduct of the U. S. foreign policy must be based. In many parts of the world frequently at great distances from the U. S. International commercial telegraph service is unreliable and ill-advised and in times of crises is often denied to representatives of the U. S. by strikes, riots, etc.

2. The U.S.S.R. and Great Britain among several other nations are known to be operating extensive diplomatic radios throughout the world. In many cases as a result these countries are scooping the U. S. in intelligence matters to the serious detriment of our international position. It is obvious that rapid and reliable communications is the only means by which a modern intelligence agency even can hope to effectively discharge its tasks in a rapidly moving world of today when the President must make decisions quickly frequently with far reaching effects concerning international crises in remote parts of the world. This need for a reliable means of rapidly obtaining timely information is obvious.

3. Experience has demonstrated time and time again, especially [redacted] the importance of an extensive diplomatic radio communications system for the purpose of providing timely intelligence for the guidance of the President and his Secretary of State. The total rate of intelligence material which must continually pass between Washington and our overseas posts in every corner of the globe is considerable. This intelligence must be exchanged on a day-to-day basis as well as in time of crises in order that the U. S. Government may take prompt and intelligent action in any situation which may arise. Even if the Communists assumption were accepted that there might be some loss to counterintelligence by granting reciprocal radio privileges to a few countries, on balance, the advantage of being able to obtain rapid intelligence on a worldwide basis would by far outweigh such minor loss.

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